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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAR:JPC

November 13, 1950

Colonel John R. Wood, MC
Chief, Medical Research & Development
Board
Office of the Surgeon General
Department of the Army
Main Navy Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Colonel Wood:

The following resume of a meeting with the Advisory Board of the Division of Biology and Medicine, Atomic Energy Commission, and representatives of the Military Services is submitted for your information.

The Advisory committee to the Division of Biology and Medicine is headed by Dr. Alan Gregg. The other members of the committee are Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, Dr. Edward A. Doisy, Dr. Curt Stern and Dr. Joseph T. Wearn.

The Military Services were represented by Admiral F. C. Greaves, Captain H. H. Haight, USN., Captain Charles Behrens, USN., Brig. General William Powell, USAF., and Brig. General James P. Cooney, U.S. Army.

The Atomic Energy Commission was represented by Dr. Shields Warren and his staff.

The military problem was presented by Brig. General James P. Cooney as follows: There is a great discrepancy in the thinking among medical men regarding the acute effects of ionizing radiation on the human. As an example, some three years ago a questionnaire was circulated by Dr. Robert Newell, Professor of Radiology at Stanford University, to a large group of radiologists throughout the country. One of the questions asked was, "What is the smallest dose of ionizing radiation delivered acutely that will cause an immediate casualty to a soldier?" The answers varied from 25 r to 800 r. Obviously, such a range is in error and such an answer to a Field Commander would be very unsatisfactory. If a weapon were to be used tactically, one might visualize a large group of military personnel who had been subjected to various dosages ranging from 50 r to 150 r. What will be the acute effect on such individuals, and when will they be ready for

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Colonel John R. Wood

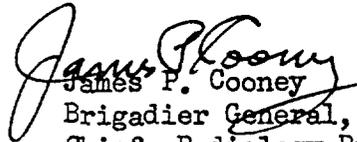
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combat? Dr. Shields Warren feels that we already have sufficient data to answer this question. In this I concur. However, this answer is unacceptable to a large number of doctors and does not have the backing of any organized group. It is felt that a problem of such vital concern to the military should have the consideration and advice of a group representative of American medicine. If such a group feels that the best answer is already available, the military should be so advised. If it is not available, the military should be advised concerning methods of securing such an answer.

Dr. Gregg and the members of his committee were extremely interested in this problem and Dr. Gregg volunteered to assume the responsibility of obtaining this answer from a group of nationally known medical authorities. The military expressed their appreciation to Dr. Gregg for this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,



James P. Cooney
Brigadier General, MC
Chief, Radiology Branch
Division of Military Application

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